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above Square Island. A number of specimens of various kind were taken, but the greater part of the time was spent in hand dredging. The results have been sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and will soon be published. Mr. Stearns is about publishing a work on Labrador that will probably combine the greater part of our present information on that subject. It will be uniform with his *New England Bird Life*, the second volume of which will soon appear, and probably come out under the name of the same publishers, Messrs. Lee & Shepard, of Boston, Mass.

MICROSCOPY.¹

MICROSCOPY AT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.—The first meeting of the new section of Histology and Microscopy, during the Montreal meeting of the American Association, fully justified the recent action of the Association in thus enlarging the scope and prominence of its former subsection of microscopy. Large and interesting sessions were held on four days during the week of the meeting, and many important papers were read. Easily first among the attractions of the meeting was the presence of the honored leader in microscopy, Dr. Wm. B. Carpenter, of London, and many microscopists who have heretofore only admired his judgment and skill as an author, found new pleasure in his genial presence, and in his thoughtful, suggestive and conclusive remarks. His rational and conservative views in regard to angular aperture were received with evident approval by the audience.

MARTIN'S UNMOUNTED OBJECTS.—The unmounted material from the laboratory of the late Mr. John Martin, of Maidstone, England, has been forwarded by his family to the Natural Science establishment of Professor Henry A. Ward, of Rochester, N. Y. It consists of a variety of hairs, scales, feathers, spines, spicules, seeds, pollens, sections of skin, hoofs and horns, infusorial earth, diatoms, foraminifera, etc. The specimens are folded in papers, and packed in small pill boxes. They are offered for sale at ten cents per box.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—Professors Silliman, Johnson and Brewer, of the National Academy's committee on sorghum culture, have been visiting Rio Grande, near Cape May, New Jersey, for the purpose of inspecting Mr. Hilgard's sugar works there. They consider the success of the method there adopted, as assured. The sorghum crop has long been an important one in this country, and its true status will now be more generally known, through the labors of Mr. Collyer and this committee.

—Dr. W. Kowalevsky of Moscow is at present in this country, and is studying the fossil vertebrata of Prof. Cope's collection in Philadelphia.

¹ This department is edited by Dr. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.